GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1736
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2006
EXPORT OF POOR QUALTITY SPICES
Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the spices are being exported by the Government as per International demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some countries have sent back the consignments of spices due to its poor quality during the last year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to export good quality spices?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) : Government is not directly exporting spices to other countries. However, during 2005-06, a quantity of 320527 tonnes of spices valued at US$ 517.90 million was exported.

(c) & (d) : Government is not aware whether some countries had sent back the consignments of spices due to its poor quality during the last year but have received 31 numbers of rapid alert notifications from the European Union because of the contamination of spices exported mainly with aflatoxin, ochratoxin, Sudan dye and microbial contaminants.

(e) :Spices Board has set up a NABL certified Quality Evaluation Laboratory at Cochin. The Laboratory is engaged in analysing spice samples to evaluate the physical, chemial, residual and microbiological quality aspects. The Laboratory also conducts proficiency / validation programmes with internationally reputed laboratories abroad. On an average 30,000 samples are analysed per annum in this laboratory. Board also assists processor exporters to set up in-house laboratories in their premises to analyse their produce for quality assurance. For quality improvement, Board is implementing 'Integrated Pest Management' and Integrated Disease Management' in selected villages in spice growing tracts.